UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,804	08/04/2003	Michael C. Robinson	200207438-1	7237

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EXAMINER
KIM, PAUL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2161	

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/633,804	ROBINSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Paul Kim	2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>04 August 2003</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-21</u> is/are pending in the application.

     4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-21</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>04 August 2003</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is responsive to the following communication: Original Application filed on 4

August 2003.

2.   Claims 1-21 are pending and presented for examination. Claims 1, 7, 15, 18, and 21 are

independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as
> set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be
> patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious
> at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said
> subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the
> invention was made.

4.   **Claims 1-21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiya (U.S.

Patent No. 6,950,864, hereinafter referred to as TSUCHIYA), filed on 27 July 2000, and issued on 27

September 2005, in view of Essential SNMP, by Douglas Mauro et al, and published on 15 October

2001.

5.   **As per independent claims 1, 15, 18, and 21**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP,

discloses:

A method for a management application {See SNMP, Chapter 5, wherein this reads over "Network-
Management Software"} accessing a database of interest {See SNMP, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he
Management Information Base (MIB) can be thought of as a database of managed objects that the agent tracks"}, the
method comprising:

said management application creating a first object for indicating a unique
identifier identifying a data item {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein
this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request
index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET";
and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the
command"} wherein said creating said first object uses a first SET command {See SNMP,

Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

an agent {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 13-18, wherein this reads over "a management object process unit incorporated in the managed device as an agent"} storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database {See TSUCHIYA, col. 2, lines 13-14, wherein this reads over "a memory section for storing the management object collected from the managed device"};

said management application creating a second object {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} for indicating a data type for said data item {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20d}, said creating said second object including use of a second SET command {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

said agent {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 13-18, wherein this reads over "a management object process unit incorporated in the managed device as an agent"} storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database {See TSUCHIYA, col. 2, lines 13-14, wherein this reads over "a memory section for storing the management object collected from the managed device"};

said management application creating a third object {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} for indicating an action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of interest {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he s tells snmpset that we want to set the value of sysLocation to a string"}, said creating said third object including use of a third SET command {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

said agent issuing an action command to perform said action {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 26-29, wherein this reads over "[t]he agent . . . transmits a response for the request in the form of the SNMP command to the manager"}, wherein said agent uses said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"};

said agent receiving a response to said action command from the database of interest {See SNMP, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"; and Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "run a final smpget, which tells us that the set actually took effect"}; and

said agent sending said response to said management application {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, Figure 2-8, wherein this reads over "the agent performs the set and returns a noError response to the NMS"}.

While TSUCHIYA teaches the use of an agent and certain SNMP commands directed toward a management object, SNMP teaches the specific use of "set" and "get" Operations. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the

above invention suggested by TSUCHIYA by combining it with the invention disclosed by SNMP. The results of this combination would lead to the method for a management application (i.e. Network Management Software) accessing a database by means of an agent which stores a unique identifier and data type in a restricted intermediate database.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification so that SNMP may be used in accessing restricted management objects.

6.   **As per dependent claims 2 and 12**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein said response indicating success is said data item {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "the snmpset command succeeds and reports the new value of sysLocation"}.

7.   **As per dependent claims 3 and 13**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein said response indicating failure is an error message {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[the agent] performs other checks and, if any of them fail, returns a get-response with the appropriate error code"}.

8.   **As per dependent claims 4, 8, 16, and 19**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein said action is a returning to said management application of said data item from the database of interest, and said action command is a GET command {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "run a final snmpget, which tells us that the set actually took effect"}.

9.   **As per dependent claims 5, 9, 17, and 20**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

said action command is a fourth SET command {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"}; and

further comprising: said management application creating a fourth object for indicating an actual value of said data item to be stored in the database of interest {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "s tells snmpset that we want to set the value of sysLocation to a string; and 'Atlanta, GA' is the new value itself"}.

10.   **As per dependent claims 6 and 14**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein the database of interest is a restricted database {See SNMP, Section 1.4, wherein this reads on "a proprietary MIB"; and Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[o]bjects that are defined in the MIB as read-write or write-only can be altered or created using this command"}.

11.   **As per independent claim 7**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP, discloses:

An apparatus for accessing a database of interest, the apparatus comprising:

a first network device {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "NMS"};

a second network device {See SNMP, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"} operatively coupled to said first network device; and

an agent software program {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 13-18, wherein this reads over "a management object process unit incorporated in the managed device as an agent"} programmed to monitor said second network device {See SNMP, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"};

wherein said first network device is

programmed to create a first object for indicating a unique identifier for a data item {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} using a first SET command {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

programmed to create a second object {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} for indicating a data type for said data item {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20d} using a second SET command {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

programmed to create a third object {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} using a third SET command {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"}, for indicating an action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of interest {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he s tells snmpset that we want to set the value of sysLocation to a string"}, and

programmed to receive a response to an action command to perform said action {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[the agent] performs other checks and, if any of them fail, returns a get-response with the appropriate error code"}; and

wherein said agent is further

programmed to store said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database {See TSUCHIYA, col. 2, lines 13-14, wherein this reads over "a memory section for storing the management object collected from the managed device"},

programmed to store said data type in said restricted intermediate database {See TSUCHIYA, col. 2, lines 13-14, wherein this reads over "a memory section for storing the management object collected from the managed device"},

programmed to issue said action {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 26-29, wherein this reads over "[t]he agent . . . transmits a response for the request in the form of the SNMP command to the manager"} command using said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"},

programmed to receive said response {See SNMP, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"; and Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "run a final smpget, which tells us that the set actually took effect"}, and

programmed to send said response to said first network device {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, Figure 2-8, wherein this reads over "the agent performs the set and returns a noError response to the NMS"}.

12.   **As per dependent claim 10**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP, discloses:

The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein said first network device is a network management station {See SNMP, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "NMS"}.

13.   **As per dependent claim 11**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with SNMP, discloses:

The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein said second network device is a monitored device {See SNMP, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"}.

Conclusion

14.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this

application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from

either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at

866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER